(a) whether it is a fact that site has been acquired to construct the Provident Fund Office at Guntur, if so, when; and

(b) what steps have been taken to undertake construction; what is the estimated cost thereof and when the construction is likely to be started and completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) & (b) The employees Provident Fund Organisation have reported that a piece of land was offered to them by the State Government for construction of the Provident Fund Office at Guntur. Pending finalisation of the cost of land by the State Government, the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner Guntur had taken possession of the land in July, 1988. It is, however, noted that the land which is situated in a low lying area, would require extensive earth filling involving very heavy expenditure. In view of this, the Organisation is proposing to surrender this land and to look for some feasible site for the construction of the office building.

Shops and Industries not observing Public Holidays

2443. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that shops and industries in most of localities in Delhi are not observing holidays on 15th August, 26th January and 2nd October every year;

(b) whether Government propose to issue statutory warnings to shopkeepers and industry-owners through media every year on the eve of these National Holidays;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(d) whether some of the shops and Industries in Delhi are not observing weekly holiday as per the existing norms;

(e) whether it is also a fact that some of the shops and industries in Delhi are not observing working hours as per the existing norms;

(f) whether this state of affairs has been causing great inconvenience to employees working there; and

(g) if so, the details of steps to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (g) According to the Delhi Administration, cases of violation of the provisions of the Delhi Shops and Establishments Act, 1954 relating to National holidays, close days and working hours have come to the notice of the enforcement agency. Prosecution is launched against the offenders and due vigilance is maintained by the enforcement agency.

ILO on Govt's Exit policy

2444. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has adversely commented upon Government's Exit policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exit policy for labour

2445. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Exit policy was discussed during the tripartite consultations held recently; and